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12 August 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 12 August 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gates, Mr. Gray,  
Mr. Harr, Mr. McCone, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Riddleberger,  
Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith

1. Nuclear Underground Tests

Mr. McCone reported that he was very disturbed by the attitude of Senator Clinton Anderson in connection with the negotiations concerning suspension of nuclear testing. Senator Anderson seemed to feel that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was not well informed in regard to the Bacher Report and intimated that Defense and AEC were dragging their feet concerning the negotiations. Mr. McCone stated that he was planning to see Senator Anderson to discuss these matters, to bring the committee up to date, and to inform the committee of their problems.

Mr. Dulles mentioned statements of Mr. George MaGee at a dinner given by members of the Draper Committee. Mr. MaGee is a member of the Draper Committee. Mr. MaGee had stated that the allegation that it was not possible to distinguish underground nuclear blasts from earthquakes was foolish. He stated that he knew from his experience in the field of oil explorations that there were significant seismic differences between earthquakes and blasts. Mr. MaGee had indicated that he felt that the idea of possible confusion between earthquakes and subterranean blasts had been advanced by the military to prevent conclusion of agreements.

Mr. McCone brought up the subject of fallout. He stated that this situation was also confused by highly-colored reports. Recent reports concerning Strontium 90 being found in alfalfa, lettuce, and other vegetables were cited as examples. He stated that the amount of Strontium 90 now found in lettuce was so minimal that one could eat lettuce all of one's life and suffer no effects. He felt that people were

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getting quite confused about the permissible amount.

2. Laos

The situation in Laos came under general discussion. Mr. Murphy stated that it was quite difficult to get hard intelligence on the situation. He informed the luncheon group that a senior State Department, Defense and CIA working group was meeting constantly and doing a good job of evaluating the information available. He cited the obvious difficulty that surrounded the gathering and evaluation of intelligence in the remote regions of Laos because of the varied ethnic groups that existed on both sides of the border. He stated that he thought that the Chinese Communists were endeavoring to keep the situation upset in order to cause the re-establishment of the ICC and for the purpose of calling attention to the American military mission in order to thwart its work.

3. Possible Chinese Communist Threat

Mr. Dulles reported on a message which has been sent to various Far East nations. This message emphasized certain indices which suggest possible future Chinese Communist action. He stated that the Chinese Communists had been unduly quiet for a considerable period of time and that therefore they might be expected to assert themselves anew. It is possible that they have developed a resentment stemming from the proposed Khrushchev visit and the possibility of a summit meeting about which they have not been consulted and which they will not be asked to attend. Mr. Dulles referred to information which indicates that a meeting of high level Chinese Communist leaders may be taking place outside of Peiping. The majority of the top leaders have not been seen at the capital for some time and various of their senior diplomats abroad have been recalled to China. These indications viewed against a background of the floods and famines which have plagued the regime recently, and the difficulties the Chinese Communists have experienced with the commune system add up to a situation which may lead a new burst of activity on their part.


Mr. Gates asked if this summary of indications was available to the military. Mr. Dulles answered saying that he had given this same information at the Tuesday meeting of the USIB.

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4. Batista

Mr. Murphy announced that Portugal had agreed to accept Batista if Batista would agree to live quietly on the island of Madeira.



ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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